

REMARKS

Claims 8, 10-15, 20, 26-28, 30, 31, 33, 35, and 40 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 (c) as being in an improperly dependent form. Claims 8, 10-15, 20, 26-28, 30, 31, 33, 35, and 40 have been amended so that this rejection has been overcome.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claim 14 has been amended so that this rejection has been overcome.

Claim 32 is rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claim 32 has been amended so that this rejection has been overcome.

Claims 1-3, 5-17, 20-23, 25-37 and 40 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Tabor. This rejection is traversed for the reasons set forth below.

Anticipation under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) requires that every element of the invention be found in a single prior art reference. Clearly, this is not the case with respect to the Tabor reference.

Tabor is directed to an interlocking clamping system which comprises a sieve deck. The Tabor system has a foraminated surface which is a "non-unitary structure". It is also "multi-level" in design. The Tabor foraminated surface is defined by (a) rows of stainless steel profile wire, which is held in laterally spaced relation to each other on (b) transverse support rods. The interlocking clamping system eliminates the need for providing a heavy reinforced frame around each modular screen section by including, as a part of the clamping system, (c) pairs of elongated retainer bars between longitudinal rows of modular screen sections. A movable dam (d) is provided with an effective seal to prevent leakage between adjacent screen sections. Each retainer bar receives and retains corresponding ends of the transverse support rods in a plurality of modular screen sections. Finally, bridge pin (e) is required to hold the components (a)-(d) in interlocking engagement with each other. The

Tabor system is a non-unitary structure including the individual components (a)-(d) described above, which is held in place by bridge pin (e). Furthermore, all of the components (a)-(e) form a multi-level construction when the System of Tabor are interlockingly arranged.

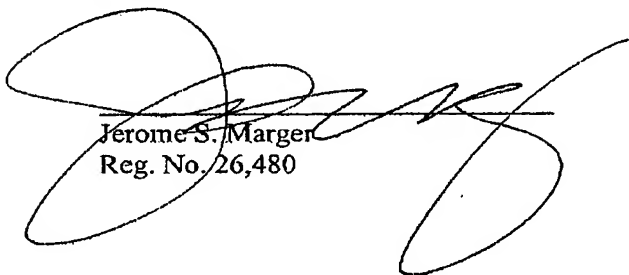
Tabor does not teach or suggest the module of the present invention, or the method of producing same, which is set forth in independent claims 1 and 21, and in the claims dependent therefrom. More specifically, claims 1 and 21 comprise a screening member having a unitary, single-level structure including an array of sieve apertures of a predetermined size defined therein for allowing particulate material up to the predetermined size to pass through the module or a diverting member having a unitary, single-level structure for redirecting the flow path of the said particulate material. Clearly, this is not a non-unitary structure including the individual components (a)-(e) as described above in Tabor. Moreover, none of the features set forth in the claims depending from claims 1 and 21, each of which forms an integral part of the unitary, single-level structure of the subject invention, can be found in Tabor.

In summary, for the reasons set forth above, the Tabor reference does not anticipate the invention set forth in claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-10, 21-23, 25-27, 29-30 and 37-38.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned Attorney for Applicants at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.



Jerome S. Marger
Reg. No. 26,480

MARGER JOHNSON
& McCOLLOM, P.C.
1030 SW Morrison Street
Portland, OR 97205
503-222-3613